

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. Cancelled.
2. (Currently Amended) An electrode providing electrical contact with a surface of a patient, said electrode comprising:
 - A. a conductive member; and
 - B. a conduction enhancer in contact with said conductive member, said conduction enhancer comprising a carrier and ~~The electrode according to Claim 1, wherein said protein/fatty acid based compound comprises a lipopolypeptide.~~
3. (Currently Amended) The electrode according to Claim 2, wherein said lipopolypeptide comprises an acyl peptide ~~acylpeptide~~.
4. (Currently Amended) The electrode according to Claim 3, wherein said acyl peptide comprises an acylated polypeptide salt ~~a material selected from the group consisting of Lamepon STM, MayTein CTM, MayTein CTTM, and mixtures thereof.~~
5. (Previously Presented) The electrode according to Claim 4, wherein said carrier and conduction enhancer provide electrical contact with an electrical resistivity comprising less than about 10K Ohms when said electrode is applied to said patient's surface.
6. (Currently Amended) The electrode according to Claim 2 ~~Claim 1~~, wherein said conduction enhancer has an activity between about 0.25% and about 60%.
7. (Currently Amended) The electrode according to Claim 2 ~~Claim 1~~, wherein said conduction enhancer has an activity between about 4% and about 50%.

8. (Currently Amended) The electrode according to Claim 2 ~~Claim 1~~, wherein said conduction enhancer has an activity between about 5% and about 30%.
9. (Currently Amended) The electrode according to Claim 2 ~~Claim 1~~, wherein said conduction enhancer has an activity between about 10% and about 30%.
10. Cancelled.
11. (Currently Amended) A method for decreasing the electrical resistivity between an electrode and the surface of a patient comprising: placing a carrier and a conduction enhancer comprising ~~The method according to Claim 10, wherein said protein/fatty acid-based compound comprises a lipopolypeptide~~ between said electrode and said surface.
12. (Original) The method according to Claim 11, wherein said lipopolypeptide comprises an acyl peptide.
13. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 12, wherein said acyl peptide comprises an acylated polypeptide salt ~~a material selected from the group consisting of Lamepon STM, MayTein CTM, MayTein CTTM, and mixtures thereof.~~
14. (Original) The method according to Claim 13, wherein said carrier and conduction enhancer provide electrical contact with an electrical resistivity comprising less than about 10K Ohms when said electrode is applied to said patient's surface.
15. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said electrical resistivity is obtained in about 0.001 seconds to about 3 minutes.

16. (Original) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said electrical resistivity is obtained within about 0.01 seconds to about 30 seconds.

17. (Original) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said electrical resistivity is less than about 6K Ohms.

18. (Original) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said electrical resistivity is maintained for at least about 8 hours.

19. (Original) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said electrical resistivity is maintained for at least about 72 hours.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 11 ~~Claim 10~~, wherein said carrier and conduction enhancer comprise ~~composition comprises~~ a gelling agent.

21 to 31. (Cancelled).

32. (Original) An electrode providing electrical contact with a surface of a patient, said electrode comprising:

A. a conductive member; and

B. a conduction enhancer in contact with said conductive member comprising a carrier and a surfactant represented by the formula:



wherein R, R', and R'' are the same or different and may be independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, amine, carbonyl, and carboxyl moieties; R, and R'' may also be independently selected from the group consisting of -H, and -

SH;

wherein the repeat unit, n , is an integer from about 2 to about 2000; and wherein M is a metal ion.

33. (Original) The electrode according to Claim 32, wherein when a carbon containing moiety is selected, R , R' , and R'' have 1-20 carbon atoms.

34. (Previously Presented) The electrode according to Claim 32, wherein said repeat unit, n , is an integer from about 150 to about 1800.

35. (Previously Presented) The electrode according to Claim 32, wherein said surfactant is a mixture of compounds selected from said formula.

36. (Previously Presented) The electrode according to Claim 32, wherein said metal ion, M , is selected from the group consisting of K^+ , Na^+ , and mixtures thereof.

37. (Cancelled).

38. (Currently Amended) A method for making electrical contact between an electrode and a patient's surface, which comprises the step of applying an electrode having a surface coated with a mixture of a carrier and a conduction enhancer comprising ~~The method according to Claim 37, wherein said protein/fatty acid based compound comprises a lipopolypeptide.~~

39. (Original) The method according to Claim 38, wherein said lipopolypeptide comprises an acyl peptide.

40. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 39, wherein said acyl peptide comprises an acylated polypeptide salt ~~a material selected from the group consisting of Lamepon STM, MayTein CTM, MayTein CTTM, and mixtures thereof.~~

41. (Original) The method according to Claim 40, wherein said carrier and conduction enhancer provide electrical contact with an electrical resistivity comprising less than about 10K Ohms when said electrode is applied to said patient's surface.
42. (Original) The method according to Claim 41, wherein said acyl peptide has an activity of at least 0.25%.
43. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 38 ~~Claim 37~~, wherein said patient's surface ~~[[skin]]~~ is unabraded.
44. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 41, wherein said electrical resistivity is obtained in about 0.001 seconds to about 3 minutes.
45. (Original) The method according to Claim 41, wherein said electrical resistivity is obtained within about 0.01 seconds to about 30 seconds.
46. (Original) The method according to Claim 41, wherein said electrical resistivity is less than about 6K Ohms.
47. (Original) The method according to Claim 41, wherein said electrical resistivity is maintained for at least about 8 hours.
48. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 38 ~~Claim 37~~, wherein said mixture comprises a gelling agent.
- 49 to 58. (Cancelled).
59. (Original) A surgical electrode for electrosurgery comprising a conductor and a conduction-enhancing amount of an acyl peptide.

60. (Currently Amended) An electrode for electrosurgery in a patient comprising:
a. a conductor; and
b. a conduction-enhancing amount of a mixture of a carrier and an acylated polypeptide salt ~~a surfactant selected from the group consisting of Lamepon STM, MayTein CTM, MayTein CTTM, and mixtures thereof~~, wherein said mixture is applied to a surface of said conductor.

61. (Original) The electrode according to Claim 60, wherein said conduction enhancer has an activity between about 0.25% and about 60%.

62. (Original) The electrode according to Claim 60, wherein said conduction enhancer has an activity between about 4% and about 50%.

63. (Original) The electrode according to Claim 60, wherein said conduction enhancer has an activity between about 5% and about 30%.

64. (Original) The electrode according to Claim 60, wherein said conduction enhancer has an activity between about 10% and about 30%.

65. (Currently Amended) The electrode according to Claim 2 ~~Claim 1~~, wherein said carrier comprises a liquid, cream, or gel.

66. (Previously Presented) The electrode according to Claim 5, wherein said carrier comprises a liquid, cream, or gel.

67. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 11 ~~Claim 10~~, wherein said carrier comprises a liquid, cream, or gel.

68. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said carrier comprises a liquid, cream, or gel.

69. Cancelled.

70. (Previously Presented) The electrode according to Claim 32, wherein said carrier comprises a liquid, cream, or gel.

71. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 38 ~~Claim 37~~, wherein said carrier comprises a liquid, cream, or gel.

72. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 41, wherein said carrier comprises a liquid, cream, or gel.

73. (Previously Presented) The electrode according to Claim 60, wherein said carrier comprises a liquid, cream, or gel.